

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been amended and remain pending in the application.

Applicants have amended the specification and provided a substitute specification as required. Also, a new Abstract of the Disclosure is submitted with the substitute specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-9 have been amended to overcome the claim objections noted in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vermeulen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,810,379 (Vermeulen). Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to voice synthesizing, and in particular to selecting a speech style for voice- synthesizing stereotypical sentences with a selected style of speech, such as a dialect. Stereotypical sentences as defined in the present invention are of the type identified in Figure 4 of the present application. By using a terminal device, a user can identify the voice contents of a type of sentence to be voice synthesized. A speech style dictionary having a speech style and prosody data corresponding to the voice contents that are identified is used in the voice synthesis. That is, the voice is synthesized based on the selected prosody data and the voice contents that are identified so that the speech is synthesized with the specific speech style that is selected.

For example, Fig. 5 shows a sentence to be voice-synthesized with respect to identifiers of the Osaka dialect as the speech style. According to the present invention, the content pointed to by the content identifier can be changed into different text or sentences to be voice synthesized in accordance with the speech style. Therefore, the sentences can be voice-synthesized according to a standard pronunciation or in an Osaka dialect, for example.

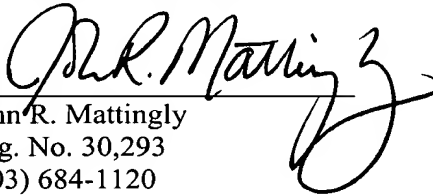
Vermeulen discloses synthesis of text-to-speech using acoustic signal synthesis unit 18 which receives input from a pronunciation unit 14 and a prosody generation unit 16. However, Vermeulen does not disclose the invention as claimed which enables a user to point to a speech style that refers to speech styles stored in a speech style dictionary including speech style and prosody data. According to the present invention as set forth in claim 1, the prosody data which is selected is added to the voice-synthesizer driving data to perform voice synthesis with the selected, specific speech style. Vermeulen does not disclose this aspect of the claimed combination, and therefore, the reference does not anticipate the invention as claimed. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
John R. Mattingly
Reg. No. 30,293
(703) 684-1120

JRM/so
Date: October 24, 2005